

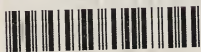
Report of the German
Missionaries in
Tinnevely.

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FOURTH

HALF-YEARLY REPORT

OF THE

GERMAN EVANGELICAL MISSION,

IN TINNEVELLY,

TO THE END OF DECEMBER 1837.

Madras :

J. B. PHAROAH—MOUNT ROAD.

MDCCCXXXVII.

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FOURTH HALF-YEARLY REPORT
OF THE
German Evangelical Mission

IN TINNEVELLY,

TO THE END OF DECEMBER, 1837.

It is by the undeserved goodness of the Lord our God, that we are enabled to behold the close of another year in a good degree of health and strength, whilst, in the course of it, thousands of our fellow sinners have been taken out of the land of the living. And, not only have we been permitted to pass this year safely, but we have also been favoured, in the midst of many infirmities, imperfections, temptations and failings, with the needful grace to do something for the glory of his name; which, millions of our fellow-creatures have not had the privilege of doing. Oh! that we were more truly thankful! and that both his goodness and severity might stir us up to greater devotedness to Him, and to warmer zeal in his wonderful work among the children of men! What work is there on earth more necessary and more honorable, than that of leading benighted and infatuated men to the light and truth of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? to bring them into fellowship with the Father of Lights; and to teach them the way to hearty obedience to his holy and just commands? But, "who is sufficient for these things?" Were not the work of evangelization accompanied by so many precious promises of the divine blessing, we should despair of effecting any thing; for the heart of man is too much hardened; too much lost to a sense of divine things, readily to yield even to the most eloquent persuasions of mere men: and therefore, not by human might or power "but by my Spirit, said the Lord." Is it then from the want of a real feeling and of an unreserved acknowledgment of this truth, that we see comparatively so little fruit of Missionary labour? or, is it a want of discernment of the Divine Spirit's working in his various grades, so to speak, which makes us blind to his blessing and perhaps guilty of accusing Him of bestowing none at all? For here, as in the soil beneath our feet, there is "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Or, do we perhaps look at once for the full corn, when we ought first, to mark the shooting forth of the blade? and yet, where all the soil is stony and barren, it must surely fill us with joy to behold even a single blade spring up. Or, do we perhaps fix our eyes too much on the stony and barren ground, so as not to observe the blades which here and there are actually springing up; and thus withhold from our hearts the joy which we need for our encouragement to go forward, and from the Lord of the harvest the praise which is due to him?

It is our desire to avoid these errors with regard to the Tinnevelly field. If we cannot exhibit to our Christian friends and supporters much full grown corn, we are glad to be able to show them at least many blades and ears, which have sprung up in it; and trust they will rejoice with us even in the day of small things, praise the Lord for his blessing, and entreat him to bestow more.

In giving our statement of this Mission, as it is at the close of this year, we shall follow the usual arrangements.

I.—MISSIONARIES.

Our number continues the same as noted in our 3d Report at the end of June last; excepting our families, in which we have had in the course of this year to mourn over the loss of a beloved child of Mr. Rhenius; and to rejoice at the birth of a daughter in his family; of another daughter in Mr. Muller's, and of a son in Mr. Schaffter's. Our four Mission families therefore consist of 3 sons and 6 daughters. We are sorry to state that Mr. Lechler's health has been indifferent, which has obliged him at last to leave Tinnevely for Madras or any other place on the coast in quest of health. May the Lord be gracious to him, bless the means which may be used, and restore him soon to his work! Mr. and Mrs. Muller proceeded in September last to our new establishment at Suviseshapuram, about 35 miles south from hence; where they have taken 3 districts under their charge.

Besides our usual journies among the congregations and the surrounding heathen, we have attended also several of the great idol feasts in the province; on which occasions many hundreds if not thousands of idolaters, have heard the Gospel and received religious tracts, which they have taken with them to their homes in all directions for their farther instruction.

II.—CONGREGATIONS.

According to the summary annexed to this report, the total of people in our connexion at present is.....2157 families, or 7378 souls.

The total at the end of June last was..2129 " or 7262 "

Increase in the last half year..... 28 families, or 116 souls.

The increase in the former half year was 58 " or 257 "

Total increase in the whole year..... 86 families or 373 souls.

These 2157 families are in 210 villages.

From several heathen villages applications have been made for Christian teachers; but the people proved at last not to be in earnest or something came in their way, so that they have postponed the great change till a more convenient season.

In some of the places where the congregations were divided, we have been enabled to remove our people and settle them on separate lands, in order to make an end of all unpleasant collision. We are sorry to say that even this healing measure has been opposed, and the people who removed their own houses have been subjected to no small trouble. However, the Lord has graciously helped them through. We are thankful to say that with the exception of these troubles, the people have not had much to suffer; excepting a congregation in the west, where a backsliden headman endeavours to introduce again the worship of devils in the village, and to engage influential heathen to help him therein; threatening to abolish Christianity not only in that place, but also in the neighbouring villages. A congregation in another place has not yet been able to obtain from the Maniyatchi Zemindar, a small piece of land for the erection of a prayer-house. Many requests have been made on the part of the people, and many promises given on the part of the Zemindar and his agents for more than a year, but in vain. It is evidently designed not to let Christianity get a footing there, which it is thought will be the case, if a prayer house be built. The people, however, appear to have a better foundation than a

house made with hands ; they go on to learn the word of God in their houses, small and uncomfortable as they are, patiently waiting till the Lord may be pleased to incline the hearts of their earthly masters to give them a piece of land.

In a village to the north, where a few families commenced some months ago to learn the word of God, another Zemindar was very much displeased with them for it, and would not allow them to plough and to sow his lands as formerly ; they entreated him to have pity on them, assuring him expressly, that the Christian religion does not make them worse but better men : he at last consented, under condition that they should pay him 14 rupees for the favour. This they were not able to do ; they therefore repeated their entreaties. He then lowered the fee to 7 rupees ; this they paid, and then got leave to till his land. It is remarkable, that in November last the cholera visited this place only, in that quarter of the country : among 90 families, 60 persons were attacked ; of whom only 14 recovered, and 46 died ; of whom were 3 children of the congregation. This has given a shock to all : some say it is on account of Christianity that this has happened ; others maintain that it has been so because all the heathen there have not embraced the Vedam. Indeed, many of them had at first been willing to forsake heathenism, but drew back when they saw persecution coming. We regret to say that only 2 families (of 7) have borne the trial well ; the rest seem inclined to retrace their steps. But the proper effect is yet to come.

Including the last mentioned village, there are 24 heathen places, in which the gospel has been newly planted in the course of this year. It is true that in 12 of them there is at present but one family in each ; still, a beginning is made, and we may hope for increase. In the rest, the number of families is larger ; three of them have two families each ; two others four families each ; one has five families ; three of them have seven families each ; one has twelve families ; another twenty-two families ; and a third, twenty-four families.

At V — the principal persons had often before expressed to our Catechists a wish to become Christians ; but they as often drew back again. A few months ago they told the Catechists that they were now in earnest. He would not believe them until they put away their idols. " This" said they " we shall do immediately ;" and then pulled down their stone idols and gave them to him. Besides their idols, there was a large umbrella-tree on their ground, which was imagined to be the chief residence of the Devil Sami, and inspired more dread and veneration than the idols themselves. The Catechist pointing to the tree said " But what will you do with this tree ?" This also we shall cut down before your eyes—it is of no use—we fear it no more : " and so they got an axe and felled it to the ground to the great astonishment of the heathen present, who expected that the hands and ears of the destroyers would be seriously injured for it : but, no such thing happening, they were convinced that the idols are indeed vanities.

There have been 97 baptisms during the last 6 months, viz., 29 men, 23 women, and 45 children. The baptisms in the whole year, therefore, have been 177. All the adults who have been baptized gave us much reason to believe that their hearts are turned to the living God, and that they have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Supper has been administered not only at Palamcottah, but also at several places in the country, to the great comfort of the people.

The general state of the congregations continues as before ; we trust there is an improvement in their knowledge and character. It is remarkable that whilst they will endure any bodily hardship for the gospel's sake, it is extremely hard for them to do any thing for it in a pecuniary way. It must, however, be admitted that most of them have nothing to spare of this world's goods ; though there are some who might do more. They provide, however, for the poor in their places, and have contributed also 22 Rs. 5 A. 6 P. towards the spread of the gospel, besides to other objects, as will be stated hereafter.* But an undue estimation of this world's goods has been so deeply imprinted on the native character, that in the ordinary way of the Lord's dealings, it will be long before it will be altogether corrected. Considering this state of their character, how very necessary is it, not to put them an example of worldly mindedness ; not to persuade them in any wise that prosperity in temporals is a thing greatly to be desired ; not to allure them by promises of worldly advantages ; not to boast of our connexion with the rich and great of this world ! Conduct of this kind cannot but increase in the Natives their natural stock of earthly-mindedness : it must defeat our own proper object, and make our complaints about their religious state unavailing. We have earnestly endeavoured by the grace of God to counteract this worldly spirit as much as we can ; and we have reason to say that the people in our charge learn more and more to look away from men and the world, to Him, who alone is able to help and save them from all evil. Their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ requires, in many instances, to be rightly directed. Many believe on him indeed as their Saviour—but, not so much from sin itself, as from the consequences of it, viz. the misery of this life and of that which is to come. They, as we have often stated in former years, resemble the Israelites in the wilderness, or the Jews mentioned in the 6th chapter of St. John's Gospel ; they have still to experience the plague of their own hearts. However, there are also more advanced believers among them, who feel not only the misery of this life, but also sin as its cause, and they take hold of Christ crucified, as their Saviour from it.

In one of the low caste congregations we have been grieved to see much of a contentious spirit, and its concomitant evils ; but the leaders in it have been separated from the congregation, which now goes on quietly. In others, there have been individuals guilty of falsehood ; but on the whole the love of truth, or rather the fear of telling a lie, is gaining ground every where. We have often heard from the mouth of the heathen, that there is a remarkable improvement of character in those who join the Christian Church ; and this acknowledgment we often use as a strong argument with those heathens for the excellence of Christianity. The wealthy chetty (or merchant) in R—— whom

* From the particulars mentioned in the sequel, it will appear that the contributions have been the following :

	R.	A.	P.
For the Mission cause - - - - -	22	5	6
Religious Book Society - - - - -	230	7	2
Peace Association - - - - -	182	5	8
Poor Funds - - - - -	224	8	2
Total - - - - -	659	10	6

Of this sum the Native Christians and Schoolmasters have given at least 500 Rupees.

we have mentioned in our former report as having purchased a copy of the evidences of Christianity in Tamil for 2 Rups. and who has lately purchased also a copy of the Harmony of the 4 Gospels for 3 rupees, continues to read the scriptures with much attention and benefit : he is fully persuaded that he must be a Christian ; labours much to overcome the difficulties which his caste-connexions present to his baptism ; has reading of the word of God and prayer in his house ; is now strictly honest in his mercantile affairs, to the great surprize of his relations and friends who conceive that it will be to the hurt of his purse ; and has already got the noble fame of an honest merchant among the heathen. His father was for a long time very angry with him on account of all these strange proceedings ; but in November the Catechist reported that he has at length yielded, and permits the Bible to have a place in the almira of his room. We pray, and we entreat all the people of God to pray, that the powerful working of the Holy Spirit may be still more apparent among all sorts and conditions of men throughout this district.

III.—CATECHISTS.

We have now 116 Catechists ; therefore 9 more than at the end of June last ; of whom 6 occupy new stations ; one was sent to a place where the Catechist had been discontinued for some time ; and two were sent to assist the Catechists in old stations on account of the increase of their congregations. That, notwithstanding the increase of Catechists, the total increase of the people during the last 6 months should be only 116 souls, as stated before, is caused by the decrease in other congregations, occasioned by change of residence, by returning to heathenism through oppression, or by being rejected for bad conduct. The spiritual exercises of the Catechists have been as usual. There is a variety of graces and talents among them. Temptations from within and without are abundant ; so that it is no wonder that on particular occasions their weakness should discover itself. One Catechist has been suspended for neglect of duty ; and a head Catechist has been dismissed this month for a similar reason and unfitness for the work. Catechist Asirvadam of Aneikerdiiyiruppu died in November of cholera, giving evidence that his heart was fixed on Christ. He was a faithful labourer. In June last the Catechists heard a discourse on John xiv, 23, " If a man love me, he will keep my words : " when the question was solemnly put to them, ' what they had hitherto done expressly from love to Christ ? ' A number of them came afterwards together and considered it seriously ; they at last resolved on sending out a christian brother among the heathen, to read tracts to them and exhort them to repentance and faith. Accordingly, 21 persons, all Catechists, excepting two who are christian women, formed themselves into a " Pilgrim Society " for making Christ known among the heathen. They chose a pious and willing man for their messenger, who, accompanied by a volunteer, the aged father of a Catechist, has since July last gone to many heathen villages with the message of salvation. The Pilgrim Society support them by their own contributions. It was entirely the Catechists' own act, and we heard of it only some time after it had been established. We were of course much pleased to see this effect of the love of Christ on their hearts. Of the journeys of these 2 messengers mention will be made afterwards.

IV.—SCHOOLS.

At the end of June last there were 48 schools under proper Masters,
 44 " " Catechists.

Total 92 "

There are now 44 schools under proper Masters,
 42 " " Catechists.

Total 86 "

Decrease 6 Schools.

The decrease of Schools under regular masters has been caused by a deficiency in the attendance of the boys, and by the inability of the masters to conduct a Christian School. The decrease of 2 schools under Catechists is to be ascribed chiefly to the poverty of the parents who are obliged to withdraw their children from the school, in order to have their assistance in procuring their livelihood.

In the largest schools conducted by masters we have :

8 ushers to assist them, and

14 " in the Catechist Schools.

Total 22 ushers ; who receive from 1 Rupee to 2½ Rupees remuneration per month.

The number of Scholars in June last was 2692

There are now in the 44 regular schools, 1977 scholars, } 2513
 and in the 42 Catechist schools, 536 " }

Decrease.... 179

The daily average attendance is 1506

Of the above 36 schools, 15 schools under regular masters, and 12 under Catechists, in all 27 schools, have been since September under the superintendence of Mr. Müller at Suviseshapuram.

The schools are scattered in all directions of this province ; and considerable indeed is the quantity of divine knowledge which is spread by their means among all classes of people. We have reason to say that the heathen generally are led to respect Christianity very highly because of the excellent knowledge which is imparted by the schools to their youth ; and did our funds allow it, we might establish schools to any extent. Though the young people do not yet actually embrace christianity, yet we are sure that the knowledge of its holy precepts exerts a moral influence upon them, which makes them disgusted with idolatry, and more regardful of true morality. It is to be remembered that nothing but the word of God and scripture catechisms are taught in these schools, besides writing and arithmetic : and that even the heathen masters are pretty well acquainted with the contents of the books taught, before they are sent to teach them. Many of the schoolmasters are not far from the kingdom of God. During the last 6 months, 4 of them have been baptized ; 3 of whom are Sudras, and 1 is a Shanani. One of the former had a great temptation to overcome ; for he knew that upon his return home after baptism, his wife would desert him. But the grace of God enabled him to overcome his fears and to trust in the Lord. These men have no worldly motive in thus openly professing Christianity ; for, fitness alone for its duties serves to keep them in the office of schoolmasters. Baptism does not

add to the security of their worldly calling. Their whole demeanour shows that they desire to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ. The heathen schoolmasters gradually diminish : there are now 9 christian masters, and 2 christian head schoolmasters.

It is with great concern that we have to report the death of one of the head schoolmasters in November last by cholera. Our regret is increased by the uncertain state of mind in which he died. He had been employed for more than 12 years in the Mission schools ; he had received a deep insight into the excellence of christianity ; he was evidently influenced by its doctrines and precepts ; he was diligent, faithful and highly useful in the school department ; but he could not bring his mind to receive baptism and to leave off the mark of heathenism on his forehead, on account of his caste relations. In November last he was at a town 30 miles from here, to examine a school, when the dreadful disease attacked him ; and in a few hours he was a corpse. It was the more remarkable, as the cholera had not yet come to that place. How he died we have not been able to ascertain, as no Christian was near him. We trust it will be a wholesome warning to all our schoolmasters, not to delay the full surrender of their hearts to God. It has evidently given them a shock. He was highly esteemed by them.

As for the *Girls' Schools*, we have now only two, viz. : the female seminary under Mrs. Schaffter, and a day school at Nganapuram. The girl school at Tinnevely has been discontinued, because the aged master, having his salary reduced on account of unfitness for business, and an usher having been appointed to assist him, chose to throw up work, to join the Church Mission, and then to draw the girls of our school after him. The female seminary consists of 32 girls ; two having died of cholera in October last. Their instructions are the same as mentioned in our former report. Ten girls attend the day school at Nganapuram ; and 53 girls learn in the country schools ; total 95 girls, who are included in the total of scholars mentioned above.

V.—SEMINARY.

The Seminary consists of the usual number 25, besides 10 day scholars.

With the *First Class*, consisting of 6 boys, the lessons have been nearly the same as before. Hebrew, however, has been discontinued, from a feeling that with their other subjects of learning ; which to persons in their circumstances, are by no means easy, the boys have enough to occupy their time. During the last 6 months, they have acquired a little knowledge of the solar system, and have been regularly introduced to the use of the terrestrial globe. But, English grammar, writing and reading have engaged about half their time. Weekly examinations, in writing, have been in frequent occurrence : and it is pleasing to say that those of them who pay ordinary attention are making visible progress. They have also some idea of ancient history in general, down to the 4th century ; and know a little of the separate history of Greece. They have learned a considerable part of the native Tamul Grammar, called the Numool. In algebra, they are in simple equations, involving two or more unknown quantities. They have also attended to arithmetical and geometrical progression. Four days in the week, they read a few verses in the Greek testament ; and pains are taken to make them well acquainted with the grammar the language ; besides the notice of theological and historical parti-

culars contained in different passages. They read the gospel of St. John.

The *Second Class* have gone through the abridgment of Tamul grammar; and, in English, read and translate the New testament daily. In the English grammar (of the Jaffna Book Society) they have just commenced the rules of Syntax; and they have learned the first 8 chapters in Pinnock's catechism of geometry. In European arithmetic they are in compound multiplication. In the Tamul geography they have learned about the Continent of Asia.

The *Third Class* have gone through the abridgment of Tamul grammar; and the first number of the Jaffna "First lessons in English." In arithmetic they have not of course done much. They regularly attend to English spelling.

The *Fourth Class* are for the most part employed in Tamul; but they learn English spelling and reading.

Though in some of the boys we could wish to see more diligence, and in others, a readier intellect, yet their moral conduct has on the whole been satisfactory.

Sarkunnen Winfried continues to be a faithful and intelligent teacher of the mathematics and the Tamul lessons.

Scriptural knowledge is proposed to the Seminarists as the chief object of their pursuit; and it is pleasing to see them increase therein from year to year. True piety is taking deeper root in several of the elder boys; and we have the best hopes of seeing many of them soon become useful labourers in the kingdom of God. The cholera tried them. In September, the daughter of one of our servants, and 2 girls of the female seminary were attacked and died. The other girls were sent home, till the cholera should subside. The question then was, whether the boys also should go to their homes for a season: when they were asked about it, they cheerfully said, "that they wished not to go home—they were not afraid—the Lord can help them every where"—excepting 3 of the smaller boys that wished to go home with their parents, who were just then here. Two of them, however, returned, when they found the cholera visited their villages. In November, one of the Seminarists, the son of Catechist Thomas, was attacked, but recovered by the Lord's blessing on the means used. While suffering, his mind appeared resigned to the Saviour's will, and desirous to go to the heavenly kingdom.

VI.—PREPARANDI CLASS.

In this highly necessary and useful institution there are now 12 men, who give us the hope of ultimately labouring with diligence and spirit among their countrymen. Two of them were assistant catechists; but have been taken again into this class for further improvement. In the course of this half year, they have learned and heard minutely expounded, the Epistle to the Galatians and the first to the Corinthians. They have gone through the doctrinal catechism, and have been exercised in writing discourses on texts of scripture, and in scripture history and chronology. Usually some of them by turns accompany us on our journeys in the country, both to witness our method of proceeding, and to do good among the heathen. Eight of them were with us at the great idol feast at Shankeruarkovil, wherein among a large mass of people, they were most diligently employed in exhorting, reading, and distributing tracts from morning to night. It is pleasing to see them of their own accord remind us of such idol feasts, and

ready to carry the word of truth among the deluded multitude that assemble on such occasions. Every Saturday they go out into the neighbouring villages, speaking to the people and distributing tracts among them, when they often meet with an encouraging reception. In the course of this half year, 2 Preparandi, of those who were in the class at the beginning of the year, have gone out as Catechists or assistants.

VII.—SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL AMONG THE HEATHEN, &c

We may safely say that there is not a day in which a considerable number of heathen do not become acquainted with the gospel; and that number will not appear small, when it is considered that more than 100 Catechists, 43 Schools, and several hundreds of zealous members of congregations, come continually in contact with the Heathen, Mahommedans, &c. at the daily prayer and instruction-meetings also, here and in all the Catechist stations, some heathen usually attend; the Preparandi go every Saturday among them with the good message and with tracts; when we ourselves are at home we frequently, during the week, visit the neighbouring villages and the town of Tinnevely. The latter has a regular visit twice a week: when we travel among the congregations, we have much conversation with many heathen of all descriptions, who also take tracts with them. We have already mentioned our journeys to the idol-feasts at Tritchendoor, Pavanasum, Chittoor, and Shankeruar kovil, with a number of our Preparandi. At the latter place, about 40,000 people might be together; many of whom had not yet heard any thing of Christianity; and seemed agreeably surprized at the truths they heard. On that occasion there were distributed between 4 and 5,000 tracts, which the people took to their homes in all directions.

Next we must mention the two itinerating Preparandi, who, as stated in our 3d Report, began in May last to go to heathen villages only, to preach and distribute tracts. In 5 months from May to September, they visited 99 villages, and gave away 1,308 Tamil tracts. In October, sickness and the rains hindered them from going out again, and in November we were obliged to send one of them as Catechist to a congregation, whose Catechist had died of cholera.

The Pilgrim Society has already been noticed under the head of Catechists. Here we may further state, that their two messengers have visited in 5 months, 90 Heathen and 17 Christian villages, and have distributed 1,047 tracts.

Lastly, after the cholera had commenced its awful ravages in these parts, and the Heathen had recourse to their sacrifices to devils, &c. we thought it necessary to do something also for the great and rich among the native heathen, who, notwithstanding their superior knowledge, greatly aid the common people in their impious and useless ceremonies. Accordingly, to show them our concern for their eternal welfare, and to excite them to seek their own souls' salvation and that of their fellow subjects, letters have been addressed to most of the rich and influential natives in this province, kindly requesting them, seriously to consider the subject. About 200 such letters have been dispatched, a few of the Mahommedans have expressed themselves pleased with it. Ten Hindoo gentlemen signed a common reply in defence of their practices, saying, "That if the cholera is really a judgment of God upon men for their wickedness, the wicked only should die of it; but now, not only the wicked, but also pious and wise men are taken

"away by the cholera; and that therefore they consider it not to be a "divine judgment, but merely a calamity of the sinner." As for the people sacrificing to devils, they maintain "that every man may worship the deity in any way he thinks proper, and that the deity will "be pleased with it, and grant his desires." An explanation has been sent to them, which it is hoped, may, by the blessing of God, excite in them more serious consideration on these momentous subjects. It is astonishing and painful to see such respectable men content themselves in their own most important concerns, with mere shadows. Another has just sent a letter in reply, pleading "that their idol-feasts are of "great use to the people, in as much as they excite the latter to do "much charity and to rejoice together; and that their idolatry must "be looked upon as pleasant play-things which God is pleased with, in "the same manner as parents are pleased, when they see their children take their dolls and other play-things to amuse themselves." He thinks also that, "to discourage them from the practice of idolatry, "&c. would be to discourage them from worshipping God through these "idols, and from doing a vast deal of charity." Truly "darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people." May the Divine Spirit enlighten them; and may all the means employed to that end, be abundantly useful!

VIII.—FINANCES.

The annexed statement of accounts shows that the	R.	A.	P.
Income during 1837, including the balance of last year, has been	31,259	13	5
The expenditure	25,972	1	10

And that the Balance is.....Rupees 5,287 11 7

Of this balance, however, 1,423 Rupees 10 Annas and 4 Pice have already been paid upon the house and ground of our Mission premises here in Sinduponturei; so that there remains but little to go on with in the new year. But the Lord, who is rich over all, knows our wants, and will, we trust, provide for them, as he has graciously done hitherto. In urging upon the Church of Christ to make the necessary efforts for the maintenance of His work in our hands, we would only say "The Lord has need of it."

Our most humble but fervent praises ascend to our gracious God and Saviour for the support He has been pleased to grant to this Mission during another year, according to His promises. Our friends will rejoice with us therein, and unite their praises with ours, being assured at the same time that we feel grateful to them for all the assistance they have rendered to us for His sake and in His name. In Him the donors and the spenders are closely united together, and we trust the love of Christ will constrain both to go on "serving the Lord," seeing "that their labour is not in vain in the Lord."

We have again given no specific list of the donors and subscribers to this Mission, for reasons stated in our 2d report. Should, however, any of our friends desire to be furnished with such a list, we request to be informed of it; and we shall gladly furnish him with one: and, as we know not what remarks might be made on any items of the expenditure, we shall be much obliged to him for applying to us for the explanation of any item.

Only on the expense for purchasing lands to form Christian villages, we would at once remark, that it must not be imagined that these vil-

lages are large estates, or involve large expense; with few exceptions they are all but small pieces of land, purchased for a few rupees, giving room for the erection of the people's dwelling houses. That our friends may form a right estimate of them, we subjoin a list of the Christian villages, formed mostly during these 2 years.

	Costs.		Has now	
	R.	A. P.	Families.	
1 Aanandapuram.	30	0 0	25	
2 Sundevilei.....	20	0 0	22	The owner has given most of the 20 rups. as a charity.
3 Magirtchipuram.....	40	7 0	17	
4 Perinbapuram.....	14	0 0	11	
5 Porumeipuram.....	37	4 0	6	
6 Nganapuram.....	8	12 0	12	
7 Dbarmanagaram.....	17	13 4	39	
8 Anbinnagaram.....	101	8 0	143	
9 Sagayapuram.....	23	0 0	12	
10 Nganasundirapuram...	20	4 0	30	
11 Pugartchipuram.....	11	0 0	9	
12 Suviseshapuram.....	a gift		9	
13 Kumarenvile.....	160	4 0	37	[tled.
14 Panneivilei.....	90	0 0	26	The purchase is not yet set-
15 Naduvakuritchy.....	17	10 0	33	
16 Sattyanagaram.....	105	0 0	63	
17 Pudupatti.....	10	0 0	10	

Besides these villages, the following pieces of land have been purchased for other purposes, viz :

	R.	A.	P.
In the Town of Tinnevely, a ground for a Chapel, costs....	170	0 0	0
In do. Erel, a ground and house for a Chapel.....	11	4 0	0
Near Palamcottah, a burial ground.....	35	0 0	0
At Sedukuvaitan, ground for a Missionary Residence, or a Christian village.....	45	4 0	0

The income from the villages consists of one or two kalli fanams from each householder per annum to the Mission, and is devoted to the repair of the Chapel, lighting it for evening prayer, &c. &c. In a few of them only there are some Palmeira trees: the trifling income from their cultivation goes to the same purposes, so is also the income from any piece of land that may be cultivated.

In the first year of this settlement, the inhabitants pay nothing in consideration of the expense in building their houses, &c. There is, therefore, but little income yet from these villages. Next year all these matters will be regulated. We hope also that the native Peace Society, which will presently be mentioned, will soon be able to take this branch of our operations into its hands.

IX.—MISCELLANIES.

1.—It has already been observed, that in September last, Mr. and Mrs. Muller removed to our new establishment at Suviseshapuram. We have not yet been enabled to erect the other intended bungalow at the same place—an object we greatly desire, as we think it every way needful that two Missionaries should reside together in one place. This, as well as the necessity of effecting the purchase of the Mission premises in Sindupoonthurei, we would recommend to the earliest attention of our friends. Some extraordinary efforts must be made to accomplish these highly needful objects.

2.—We are greatly obliged to the Madras and Jaffna Auxiliary Bible and Tract Societies, also to the Nagercoil and Neyoor Tract Societies, for the large supply of Tamil scriptures and tracts, with which they have respectively supplied this Mission in the course of the year. The contributions which our Native Religious Book Society has been able to make to these highly valuable Societies have been but small; but we trust they have been acceptable. Besides the tracts received from these sources, we have got printed 4,000 copies of our doctrinal Catechism, and 3,000 copies of a sheet tract, entitled "The voice of the true Vedom," calling upon the Heathen to turn to the living God by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The former is particularly designed for our schools, and the latter for distribution at the various idol feasts. We have got printed also 500 copies of Mr. Muller's "Lives of the Apostles," designed particularly for our Catechists. Want of printing paper delayed for a time the progress of "The Body of Divinity in Tamil; of which only 6 Numbers have appeared; the 7th Number has lately been put into the Press, and we hope the work will now proceed. Our best thanks are herewith tendered to those friends who have especially assisted us in these publications, so that we have been at little cost with them ourselves. The translation of the Old Testament in Tamil has made some advance. The Pentateuch, the books of Joshua and Judges; the Psalms, the Proverbs, the Prophets Isaiah, Daniel, Haggai, and Zechariah are finished, excepting a part of the last chapter of Zechariah.

3.—The *Native Religious Book Society*, established here in January last, has had an income of 230 Rs. 7 A. 2 P. during this year; of which 87 Rs. 11 A. 6 P. have been contributed by the Catechists and Congregations.

17	11	11	.....by the School Children.
27	3	0	.....by sale of books; and

the rest by the Schoolmasters, ourselves, &c. Of this sum, 50 Rups. have been sent to the Madras Bible Society, and 30 Rups. to the Madras Tract Society. The rest will be disposed of at the anniversary of the Society, to be held as soon as possible.

4.—The *Samadana Sunguon*, or *Peace Association*, for promoting Peace by raising Christian villages, &c. likewise established in January last; has had this year an income of 182 Rups. 5 A. 8 P. raised chiefly by the Catechists, Congregations and Schoolmasters, and by small monthly contributions from ourselves.

The expense has been.....	163 Rups. 4 A. 6 P.
Balance in hand.....	19 1 2

The Association has not yet been able to do any thing towards the proper object for which it has been established; its expenditure comprises chiefly the expenses accompanying the complaints made against our people, and the discharge of small debts, which had been contracted in the former year on the same account. They have still to pay more than 100 Rupees.

5.—The *Poor Fund*. There have been regular collections for the poor in all the 9 districts into which the Mission is divided. The head Catechist of each has the charge of them; he has every month a meeting with the Catechists and headmen of his district, when contributions are received and distribution is made among the needy and distressed. The income in all the districts including Palamcottah, during the year has been.....224 Rups. 8 A. 2 P.

The expense.....	212 10 6
Balance in hand.....	11 13 8

Here in Palamcottah, or rather Sindupooturei, from 80 to 100 poor people of all descriptions receive every Friday either some money or rice ; on which occasion they are also instructed in the truths of Christianity. But little impression has as yet been made on their minds.

6.—Since September last, the cholera we are sorry to say, has made dreadful havoc in this province. Many hundreds, if not thousands, have tasted the bitterness of death and have suddenly been called before the divine tribunal to give an account of their deeds. There are but few places which have been exempt from its attacks ; in many, its ravages have been and still are awful, particularly in the south. A respectable Mahomedan family alone, in Tinnevely, lost 10 of its members in the course of four or five weeks, of whom 3 only died of other sicknesses. In a village northward consisting of about 90 houses, 60 persons were attacked, of whom 46 died. Several Roman Catholic villages have suffered most severely. We have often assembled together, acknowledged the judgment of Jehovah, and heartily prayed for mercy upon the people, particularly that by the teaching of His Holy Spirit, the survivors may be brought to seek the Lord, and cast away their idols to the moles and to the bats ; and to leave off all their works of unrighteousness. We have recommended all our congregations to do the same in their prayer meetings. As for physical means, we have prepared and largely used Major Wallace's cholera mixture. We are happy to say that it has proved in many cases successful. In our own immediate neighbourhood we had applications for medicine in 63 cases, of which 18 were fatal, and 45 recovered by means of the mixture, excepting two, in which other means were employed. In another place eight persons were attacked, of whom two died before the medicine reached it, and six recovered by its means. The same was the case at A—— where 40 persons were attacked, of whom 38 recovered. From Suvisheshapuram, at least 50 quart bottles of this mixture have been sent to villages in all directions, and many lives have been saved. We have reason therefore to bless God for this medicine. Though it has not been successful in *all* cases, yet in most it undoubtedly has been so.

We are thankful to say that our congregations have hitherto been mercifully spared ; comparatively but few adults have died ; here and there their children have been taken away. We heartily pray that both the goodness and the severity of God may make a lasting impression on their hearts, to the end that they may make a greater progress in holiness and heavenly mindedness. And oh ! that the Heathen also would hear this terrible voice of the Most High ! The vanity, the uselessness of their idols is certainly demonstrated to them in the clearest manner. We humbly trust, that the Church of Christ will have a rich harvest from this terrible judgment of God accompanying the proclamation of the Gospel, not only here but throughout the world. For, “ in that day the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low ; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day : a man shall cast his idols of silver and his idols of gold to the moles and to the bats, for fear of the Lord and for the glory of his Majesty, when He riseth to shake terribly the earth.”

We have now given our friends a brief account of the state of this Mission, as it is at the end of this year. There is reason to say that their and our united labours have not been in vain. Much of the ignorance, superstition and vice which covers this land, has been diminished ; many souls have been brought into the way of salvation : the Saviour's grace is enjoyed : the wilderness rejoices : God's holy Name is glorified. But all this is only in part. Much, much still remains to be done. May the Lord help us to go on !

May the year 1838, be marked with much more spiritual fruit from the labours of all the servants of Christ here in India and throughout the world! Let both "those who go forth to the battle, and those who abide with the staff" be more diligent and fervent than ever in fulfilling their respective duties to their Redeemer; the one in labouring, the other in supporting, and both in praying! It is yet day; "the night cometh in which no man can work."

SINDUPOONTUREI,
IN TINNEVELLY,
December 26, 1837. }

C. T. RHENIUS,
P. SCHAFFTER,
J. J. MULLER,
J. M. LECHLER, now at
Pondicherry.

AN ABSTRACT of the Congregations in connexion with the German Evangelical Mission in Tinnevelly, at the end of December 1837.

No. of Cate- chists.	No. of Villa- ges.	No. of Districts.	No. of families.	Baptized.			Candidates for Baptism.			Total of Souls.
				Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	
12	18	District I	170	145	110	183	70	69	83	660
8	16	— II	102	27	31	30	88	93	104	373
9	11	— III	177	35	20	19	144	170	278	666
10	24	— IV	128	35	34	42	89	97	123	420
24	38	— V	479	65	52	67	375	363	565	1487
18	26	— VI	540	81	63	53	467	465	709	1838
12	23	— VII ...	198	57	34	43	166	145	296	741
16	41	— VIII ..	241	80	65	81	174	183	219	802
7	13	— IX	122	27	16	19	106	99	124	391
116	210	Total at the end of Dec. 1837..	2157	552	425	537	1679	1684	2501	7378
107	214	Total at the end of June last..	2129	516	413	512	1624	1640	2557	7262
9	....	Increase in Six months.....	28	36	12	25	55	44	....	116
....	4	Decrease .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	56	....

NOTE 1.—The decrease in the number of villages has been occasioned by the omission of those, in which there were but 1 or 2 families who have either left those places or ceased to learn the word of God. This does not affect the increase of Catechists.

NOTE 2.—The decrease in the unbaptized children, has been caused by a number of them having come to age, and on that account, been put under the heads of men or women: and by others having died.

SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES IN THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL MISSION IN TINNEVELLY,
FOR THE YEAR 1837.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
Balance from last year's account.....	11707 5 9	For the support of the Missionaries.....	8413 0 0
From the Madras Presidency.....	8676 15 6	Allowance to principal Native Assistants, Writers, Chapel servants, &c.	765 9 11
Bengal do.....	1571 8 0	Do. to Catechists, including their Batta.....	6644 8 0
Bombay do.....	1200 0 0	Do. to Schoolmasters.....	3439 8 5
Malacca and Penang.....	444 0 0	Do. to Preparandi.....	526 3 4
England.....	4330 0 0	For the Seminary, including Teachers, &c.....	978 4 7
Scotland.....	1167 6 0	For two Tamil Moonshies.....	325 8 0
Prussia and Germany.....	2140 4 8	House rent, repair of Mission houses.....	345 2 2
Native Congregations.....	22 5 6	For building a Mission house, &c. at Suvieshapuram.....	1242 3 5
		Missionaries' journeys in the country, including Mr. Jos. Rhenius' journey from Madras to Palamcottah, and Mr. Lechler's journey to Pondicherry.....	760 14 1
		Postage, Coolies, Cart hire, &c.....	525 8 10
		Chapel furniture, &c.....	108 1 8
		School Books, Tracts, &c.....	186 0 0
		Stationery.....	109 0 2
		Assistance to persons in distress, Medicines, &c.....	169 2 3
		Printing charges and paper for 2d and 3d Reports.....	85 8 0
		For erecting and repairing Prayer houses, Chapels.....	313 6 3
		Do. Do. Catechists' houses.....	119 8 0
		Purchasing lands for Christian Villages, Chapels.....	428 14 0
		Assistance to the people to build houses in Christian Villages, &c.....	72 11 0
		For putting a wall round the burial ground near Palamcottah.....	24 9 0
		Sundries.....	388 14 9
		Balance in favor of the Mission....	25972 1 10
			5287 11 7
		Rupees.....	31259 13 5

C. T. E. RHENIUS,
P. SCHAFFTER,
J. J. MULLER,
J. M. LECHLER, now at Pondicherry.

E. E.

SINDAPOONTUREI IN TINNEVELLY, }
December 26, 1837.

Note.—The Diamond Earrings, presented by a Lady, as noticed in our last report, were sold for 315 Rupees.

SUMMARY ACCOUNT *of the Girls' School Fund, under the charge of*
Mrs. SCHAFFTER, for 1837.

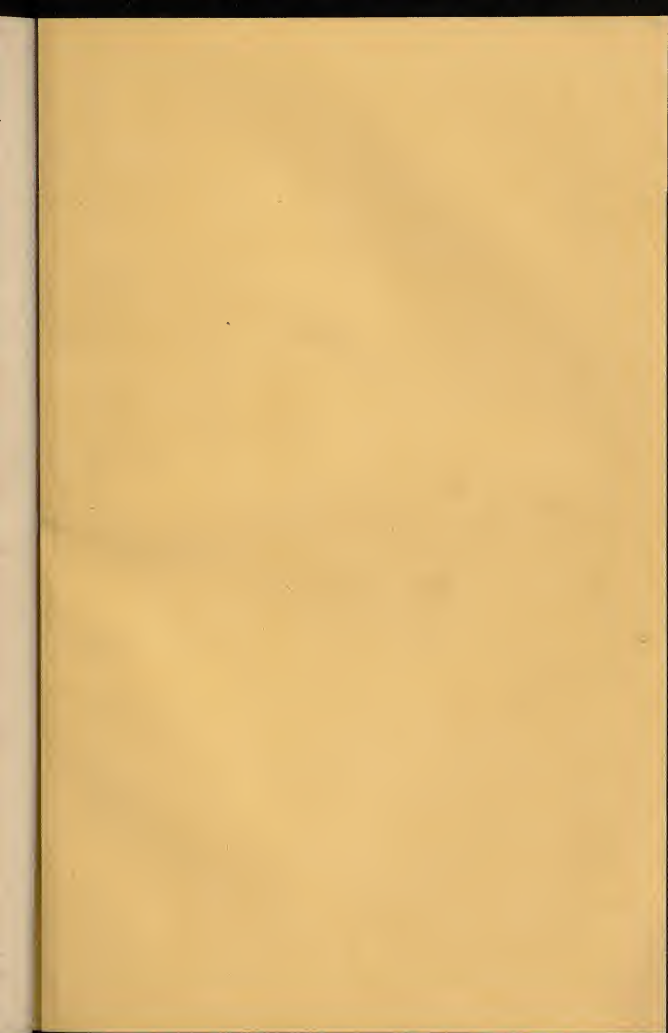
INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Balance from last year's account.....	1513	13	1	For boarding.....	305	10	1
Receipts in 1837.....	134	0	0	For clothing.....	99	7	8
By sale of Girl's work.....	7	2	0	For schoolmaster and servants.....	258	12	0
				For buildings.....	19	6	4
				For books.....	31	2	10
				Sundries.....	55	4	4
					769	11	3
				Balance in favor of the School.....	885	3	10
Rupees..	1654	15	1	Rupees..	1654	15	1

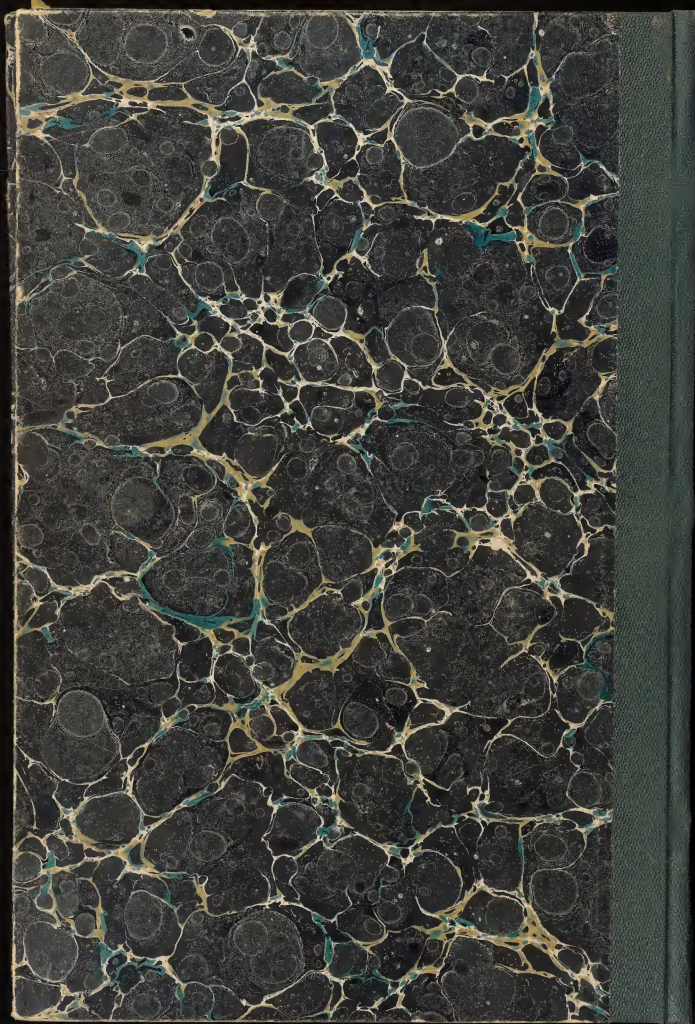
E. E.

C. T. E. RHENIUS,
P. SCHAFFTER,
J. J. MULLER,
J. M. LECHLER, *now at Pondicherry.*

SINDAPOONTUREI IN TINNEVELLY, }
December 26, 1837. }

1922/8/84





4
FOURTH

HALF-YEARLY REPORT

OF THE

GERMAN EVANGELICAL MISSION,

IN TINNEVELLY,

TO THE END OF DECEMBER 1837.

Madras :

J. B. PHAROAH—MOUNT ROAD.

MDCCCXXXVII.

